

We Claim:

1. In a broadband communication network, a method for providing fail-safe telephone connectivity between a subscriber server including a telephone and a telephone network facility, comprising switching a connection from the telephone to a broadband communication network interface directly to a telephone network facility line when a fault is detected in the broadband communication network.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein detecting a fault in the broadband communication network comprises listening for a status signal from the broadband communication network at the subscriber server and determining that a network fault exists if the status signal is not received in a threshold period of time.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein detecting a fault in the broadband communication network comprises listening, at a location in the broadband communication network, for a status signal from the subscriber server and determining that a network fault exists if the status signal is not received in a threshold period of time.

4. In a broadband communication network, a method for providing fail-safe telephone connectivity between an analog subscriber telephone and a telephone network facility, comprising connecting the analog subscriber telephone to the telephone network facility through a connection different from a connection between a subscriber server and the broadband communication network.

5. In a broadband communication network including a telephone network facility, a method of providing fail-safe telephone connectivity between a subscriber and the broadband communication network comprising:

providing a primary digital telephone connection via a subscriber server connected to the broadband communication network; and

providing a backup analog telephone connection directly to the telephone network facility bypassing the subscriber server when a fault in the subscriber server occurs.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the primary digital telephone connection comprises connecting a modem at the subscriber server to the telephone network facility.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein providing the backup analog telephone connection comprises connecting an analog telephone to the telephone network facility on the same line connecting the subscriber server and the telephone network facility, the analog telephone using a different frequency spectrum than the digital telephone.

8. The method according to claim 5, further comprising detecting fault in the subscriber server by identifying a failed polling process.

9. The method according to claim 5, wherein the fault in the subscriber server is a power failure at the subscriber server.

10. The method according to claim 6, wherein the fault in the subscriber server is a modem failure.